

From birth to age 5, a child's brain develops more than any other time in life. In fact, 90% of brain growth happens before kindergarten.

First Things First partners with families and communities to help our state's youngest children prepare for kindergarten and beyond.

How We Work



Early Childhood Funds

Allotted by FTF State Board



28 FTF Regions

represent diverse communities across AZ



Local Decision-Making

Each region has 11 volunteer regional partnership council members representing their community. Based on the area's early childhood needs, each council recommends strategies to improve the health and learning of children birth to age 5.



Partnerships with Local Early Childhood Providers

First Things First offers grant opportunities; contracted providers implement programs and services in communities.



Community Collaborations

Regions also collaborate with organizations and entities to build a network of programs and services to better support young children.



This results in Helping AZ's Youngest Kids



LEARN



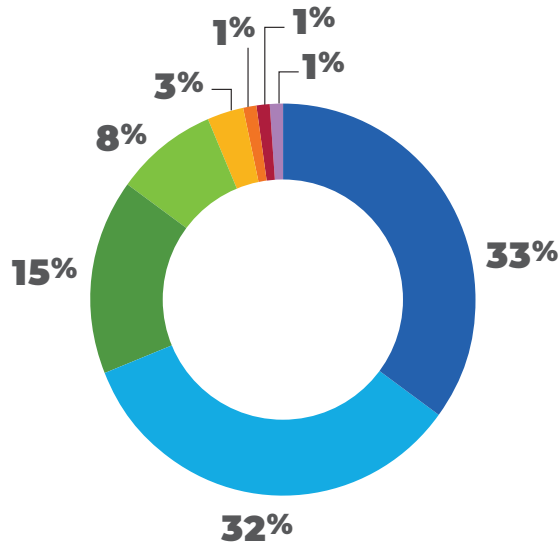
GROW



SUCCEED

Investments Across Arizona

With statewide oversight and accountability, decisions about how to invest early childhood funds – the majority of which are secured through tobacco revenues – are informed at the local level by community leaders who rely on data to determine how best to invest in proven programs and innovative strategies. In State Fiscal Year 2023, First Things First invested \$177 million in strategies to improve early childhood health and development across the state.



Priority Funding Areas

- Other programmatic expenditures (Grants, Gifts & Donations)
- Quality Child Care & Preschool
- Strengthening Families
- Preventive Health
- Workforce Development & Training
- Research & Evaluation
- Family/Community Engagement
- System Coordination

94% of funds go directly to programs and services for young children and families.

Learn More



See Our Impact

First Things First publishes reports every year, so you can see the results of FTF work and funding. You can view our Annual Reports, Regional Impact Reports and Needs and Assets Reports.

Visit: FirstThingsFirst.org/reports



Visit Your Region

You can learn more about FTF's 28 regions by visiting each regional page, to find out more about council members, specific programs in each region and read local success stories.

Visit: FirstThingsFirst.org/regions



Stay Up to Date on FTF News

Each month, FTF sends out its Latest News update, where you can get information on the latest reports and research, success stories and other happenings across Arizona. Sign up for our newsletter and other resources.

Visit: FirstThingsFirst.org